

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

32 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Raymond Cronin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

32 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5701

Folio #: 118

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

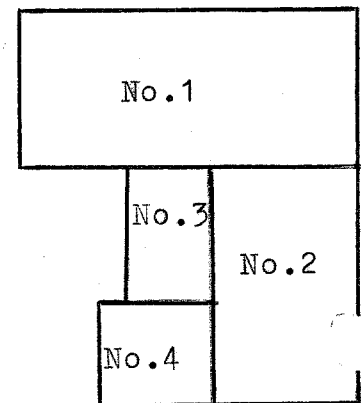
7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2168

CONDITION☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two story, three bay wide framed structure at 32 Willow Avenue was constructed in the early 1880's. Believed to have been built by Archibald Davis, it is one of the oldest houses on the street. In plan, the house consists of a two room wide main block with three probable additions to the rear. The structure, which rests on a stone foundation, is capped with a red shingled gable roof. White asbestos shingles cover the original clapboard siding. A central brick chimney is located in the oldest section of the house.

The diagram to the right indicates the probable chronology for the different sections of the house. No.1 represents the original main block. It measures approximately 24 ft. by 16 ft. These measurements correspond to the records found in the early tax assessments. No.2 appears to have been added not long after the original construction although the tax assessments do not indicate the change. Nevertheless, the present owner stated that the moldings were similar to those found in the older section. No.3 was added at some point in the 20th century. No.4 was originally a second story porch. Within the last twenty-five years, this porch was enclosed leaving an open area below. Two years ago, that lower section was enclosed.



The original block faces north on Willow Avenue. The main or north facade displays a centrally located entrance consisting of a wood paneled door and stained glass transom above. On each side of the door are 6/6 double hung sash windows with plain white trim and grey louvered shutters. Similarly, the second floor contains two 6/6 sash windows with trim and shutters.

A single story porch dominates this north facade. It rests on stone porch piers and is supported by four chamfered posts. A lattice-like base surrounds the porch while two foot balusters support the enclosing railing. The floor is constructed of plain wooden floorboards while the ceiling displays tongue and groove boards.

The west facade exhibits a variety of fenestration types. The main block contains a two story bay window comprised of 4/4 double hung sash windows. On the first floor of the [second] addition, one finds two 4/4 casement windows and one 4/4 sash window with white trim and grey louvered shutters. On the

(second)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

second floor, there is one 6/1 sash window with trim and shutters. The [third] addition at the rear of the house displays a door and a window on the first floor and a double window on the second floor. The door is a glass paneled door with a gable hood above. The first floor window is a 1/1 sash window with plain white trim and grey louvered shutters. The double window on the second floor is also a 1/1 sash window with trim and louvered shutters.

The south facade shows two 1/1 sash windows with the usual trim and shutters on the first floor, and one 2/2 window similarly treated on the second floor.

The east facade, like the west, exhibits irregular fenestration. The main block contains one 6/6 sash window with shutters on the first floor and one on the second floor. The remaining fenestration on this facade consists of two 6/6, one 4/4, and one 2/1 sash windows on the first floor. On the second floor, there is one 6/6 sash window and one 4/4 sash windows. All of the windows are encased in plain white trim and display grey louvered shutters.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES pre-1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

32 Willow Avenue was constructed prior to 1898, as evident by its appearance on George Bromley's Atlas of Towson, published in that year. In 1898, the area of Willow Avenue/Linden Terrace was still relatively unpopulated, with only three other buildings appearing on the former street. Therefore, as one of the oldest houses in the area, 32 Willow is important as visual documentation of one of the earliest architectural styles in the neighborhood -- the unadorned, gable-roofed, vernacular.

Aside from its individual architectural merits, however, 32 Willow is significant as an integral part of the surrounding residential neighborhood. In recent years, increased commercialization has threatened Towson's residential character. Many of the private residences which once typified Towson's built environment have been either demolished or altered in such a manner as to destroy their architectural and historic significance. The houses on Willow Avenue and Linden Terrace constitute one of the few relatively unchanged residential areas left in Central Towson. 32 Willow Avenue together with the other vernacular buildings on the street provide a visual representation of Towson's early character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia, 1898
Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G. W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia, 1915.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janice E. Ruth/Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson, Inc.

DATE

September, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

120 Allegheny Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

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CHAIN OF TITLE

ADDRESS: 32 Willow Avenue
 PRESENT OWNER: Raymond Cronin

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
22 Nov 1976	Charles F. Brown	Raymond Cronin Karen B. Cronin	5701/118
27 Feb 1976	Clara J. Davis	Charles F. Brown	5620/975
17 June 1952	Ella Davis McGree	Francis Edw. Davis Clara J. Davis	2128/147
30 Apr 1928	John B.W. Hax Bertha C. Hax (Includes reference to a 1915 Deed of Assignment from Archibald Davis to Mary E. Davis)	Mary E. Davis	660/218
12 Mar 1896	Dorothea Heitmüller (sold subject to lease between David McIntosh and Archibald Davis)	John B.W. Hax	216/333
6 May 18_ 5	David G. McIntosh	Dorothea Heitmüller	
17 Mar 1882	David G. McIntosh (lease)	Archibald Davis	129/126
31 Mar 1877	Valverda A.P. Ware	David G. McIntosh	101/177

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TAX ASSESSMENTS

ADDRESS: 32 Willow Avenue
PRESENT OWNER: Raymond Cronin

1911 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.203
Mary A. Davis		
Lot No.30 SS Willow Avenue Towson	275	00
Frame House	800	00
Household furniture	100	00
1918 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.353
Mary A. Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow 650' to York Rd	504	00
House 2 - 24' x 16'	837	00
1919 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.153
Mary A. Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow 650' to York Rd	504	00
House 24 x 16	837	00
1923 Tax Assessment	9th District	p. ?
Ella Mary Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow Ave, 650' to York Rd	560	00
Dwelling	1000	00

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.
G.W. Bromley & Co. Philadelphia, 1898.

Scale: 200 ft. per inch

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Atlas of Baltimore County. Maryland.
G.W. Bromley & Co. Philadelphia, 1915.

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Scale: 300 ft. per inch



TOWSON

1967 Tax Map No.70. Maryland Department
of Assessments & Taxation, Tax Map Division.
Baltimore, MD., 1967 (revised 1980).

Scale: 1" to 600'

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(inaccurate representation of easternmost
section of Willow Avenue)

SEE SUPPLEMENTAL S



BA-2168

PHOTOGRAPHS: 32 Willow Avenue

(Original photos in Historic Towson's Files)



ABOVE: South-west Corner

BELOW: South-west Corner

